

HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 146

(By Delegates Sobonya, C. Miller, Anderson, Andes,
Howell, Ireland, Kump, J. Miller, Sigler,
Snuffer, Sumner and Walker)

5

6 Requesting the Joint Committee on the Judiciary to study the
7 existence and extent of human trafficking in the State of
8 West Virginia and propose legislation consistent with the
9 committee's findings.

10 WHEREAS, Important national and international legislation was
11 passed in 2000 that launched a concerted effort to research and
12 assess the extent of human trafficking across the world; and

13 WHEREAS, Included in that legislation was the Trafficking
14 Victims Protection Act which was passed by the United States
15 Congress and the Palermo Protocol which was adopted by the United
16 Nations and provided for the criminalization of all acts of
17 trafficking including forced labor, slavery and slavery-like
18 practices; and

19 WHEREAS, Since 2000, the world has made great strides in
20 combating this ultimate exploitation both in terms of what is known
21 about this crime and how to respond. Nevertheless, trafficking of
22 humans is tied with arms dealing as the second largest criminal
23 industry in the world and is the fastest growing; and

24 WHEREAS, According to UNICEF, as many as two million children
25 are subjected to prostitution in the global commercial sex trade;

1 and

2 WHEREAS, Through its state department, the United States has
3 recently acknowledged that, like other countries, it has a serious
4 problem with human trafficking for both labor and commercial sexual
5 exploitation; and

6 WHEREAS, The United States is not only a destination country
7 for thousands of men, women and children trafficked largely from
8 Mexico and East Asia, as well as countries in South Asia, Central
9 America, Africa and Europe, for the purposes of sexual and labor
10 exploitation but, according to the 2010 Trafficking in Persons
11 (TIP) Report, the United States is also a "source country for
12 people held in servitude"; and

13 WHEREAS, The TIP report found that in America, men, women and
14 children were subject to trafficking for "forced labor, debt
15 bondage and forced prostitution"; and

16 WHEREAS, The U.S. Central Intelligence Agency has estimated
17 that fifty thousand people are trafficked into or transited through
18 the U.S.A. annually as sex slaves, domestics, garment and
19 agricultural slaves; and

20 WHEREAS, Human trafficking is a human rights abuse that
21 represents a global problem and imposes on everyone the
22 responsibility to eradicate it; and

23 WHEREAS, As part of this global effort, this state has both a
24 moral and a legal responsibility to investigate and implement

1 strategies to detect and eradicate human trafficking within its
2 borders; therefore, be it

3 *Resolved by the Legislature of West Virginia:*

4 That the Joint Committee on the Judiciary study the existence
5 and extent of human trafficking in the State of West Virginia and
6 propose legislation consistent with the committee's findings; and,
7 be it

8 *Further Resolved,* That the Joint Committee on the Judiciary
9 report to the regular session of the Legislature, 2012, on its
10 conclusions and recommendations, together with drafts of any
11 legislation necessary to effectuate its recommendations; and, be it

12 *Further Resolved,* That the expenses necessary to conduct this
13 study, to prepare a report and to draft necessary legislation be
14 paid from legislative appropriations to the Joint Committee on
15 Government and Finance.